

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A pre-cast curbside access ramp for use in bridging passageways of different elevations, said pre-cast curbside access ramp ~~being shaped to include~~ having a top and a bottom, said top having a groove defining an integrally formed curb portion and an integrally formed sloped ramp portion, said bottom having a recessed area.

2. (Original) The pre-cast curbside access ramp as claimed in claim 1 wherein said pre-cast curbside access ramp comprises steel-reinforced concrete.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

4. (Currently amended) The pre-cast curbside access ramp as claimed in claim [[3]] 1 wherein said recessed area is sized to reduce the weight of said pre-cast curbside access ramp by approximately 500 lbs.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) The pre-cast curbside access ramp as claimed in claim 1 wherein said pre-cast curbside access ramp further has a top, a bottom, a front, a rear, a front left side, a rear left side, a front right side and a rear right side and wherein said integrally formed curb portion extends from said left side to said right side and includes a central region adapted to lie flush with a roadway and side regions disposed on opposite ends of said central region adapted to slope gradually upwardly from said central region and wherein said integrally formed sloped ramp portion is disposed behind said integrally formed curb portion and is shaped to include a central ramp region and a pair of side ramp regions, said central ramp region sloping upwardly from said integrally

formed curb portion to said rear, said side ramp regions being disposed on opposite sides of said central ramp region and sloping upwardly from said central ramp region to said left side and said right side, said side ramp regions transitioning seamlessly from said central ramp region.

7. (Currently amended) The pre-cast curbside access ramp as claimed in claim 6 wherein ~~said integrally formed curb portion extends from said front left side to said front right side and includes a central region adapted to lie flush with a roadway and side regions disposed on opposite ends of said central region adapted to slope gradually upwardly from said central region and wherein said pre-cast curbside access ramp is further shaped to include a central ramp region and a pair of side ramp regions, said central ramp region and said side ramp regions being disposed behind said integrally formed curb portion, said side ramp regions being disposed on opposite sides of said central ramp region and transitioning seamlessly therefrom;~~ said central ramp region sloping slopes upwardly from said integrally formed curb portion to said rear with a maximum slope of no greater than 1:12; and wherein said side ramp regions sloping slopes upwardly from said central ramp region to said rear left side and said rear right side, respectively, with a maximum slope of no greater than 1:10.

8. (Currently amended) The pre-cast curbside access ramp as claimed in claim 6 wherein said left side includes a front left side and a rear left side and said right side includes a front right side and a rear right side and wherein each of said front, said rear, said rear left side and said rear right side is provided with a longitudinally extending key-way.

9. (Currently amended) The pre-cast curbside access ramp as claimed in claim [[3]] 1 wherein said bottom is further provided with one or more slots adapted to receive a strap for use in lifting the pre-cast curbside access ramp.

10. (Original) The pre-cast curbside access ramp as claimed in claim 1 wherein said pre-cast curbside access ramp is a quasi-triangular member shaped to include a top, a bottom, a straight side, and an arcuate side, one end of said arcuate side being joined to one end of said straight side, the other end of said arcuate side being joined to the opposite end of said straight side, said top being shaped to include a generally triangularly shaped post located along the midpoint of said arcuate side, said top also being shaped to include a flat area surrounding said post and a sloped area extending from said flat area to said straight side.

11. (Currently amended) A pre-cast curbside access ramp assembly, said pre-cast curbside access ramp assembly comprising the pre-cast curbside access ramp as claimed in claim [[7]] 6 and a pair of markers mounted on opposite ends of said central region of said integrally formed curb portion for indicating the location of said central region of said integrally formed curb portion.

12. (Original) The pre-cast curbside access ramp assembly as claimed in claim 11 wherein said markers are brightly-colored, textured markers affixed to said integrally formed curb portion by a hot-melt adhesive.

13. (Original) The pre-cast curbside access ramp assembly as claimed in claim 12 further comprising a textured, recessed plate secured to the top of said pre-cast curbside access ramp and centrally located within the central ramp region of said pre-cast curbside access ramp proximate to said rear.

14. (Original) The pre-cast curbside access ramp assembly as claimed in claim 13 wherein said textured, recessed plate is an aluminum diamond plate.

15. (Original) The pre-cast curbside access ramp assembly as claimed in claim 13 wherein said textured, recessed plate is a bronze medallion embossed with advertising.

16. (Currently amended) A pre-cast curbside access ramp assembly, said pre-cast curbside access ramp assembly comprising the pre-cast curbside access ramp as claimed in claim ~~[[7]]~~ 6 and a textured, recessed plate secured to the top of said pre-cast curbside access ramp and centrally located within the central ramp region of said pre-cast curbside access ramp proximate to said rear.

17. (Currently amended) A curbside access ramp assembly bridging a roadway and a walkway, said curbside access ramp assembly comprising:

(a) a curbside access ramp, said curbside access ramp ~~comprising~~ having a bottom and a top, said top being provided with a groove to define a curb and a sloped embankment, said curb having a middle portion set flush with the roadway, said bottom having a recessed area; and

(b) means affixed to said curbside access ramp for identifying the location of said middle portion of said curb.

18. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A curbside access ramp assembly ~~as claimed in claim 17~~ bridging a roadway and a walkway, said curbside access ramp assembly comprising:

(a) a curbside access ramp, said curbside access ramp having a top, said top being provided with a groove to define a curb and a sloped embankment, said curb having a middle portion set flush with the roadway; and

(b) means affixed to said curbside access ramp for identifying the location of said middle portion of said curb wherein said identifying means comprises a pair of brightly-colored, textured markers mounted on opposite ends of said middle portion of said curb.

19. (Original) The curbside access ramp assembly as claimed in claim 18 wherein said identifying means further comprises a textured, recessed plate secured to said sloped embankment at a point centrally located between said brightly-colored textured markers.

20. (Original) A method of making a pre-cast curbside access ramp, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) positioning a forming apparatus on a horizontal surface, said forming apparatus comprising an inner form and an outer form, said outer form being shaped to define generally the outer dimensions of a desired pre-cast curbside access ramp, said inner form being positioned within said outer form and being more shallow than said outer form;

(b) closing the top of said inner form to prevent concrete from being poured thereinto;

(c) then, filling said outer form with concrete;

(d) then, finishing the concrete within said outer form;

(e) then, allowing the finished concrete to harden within the finished form;

(f) then, removing the hardened concrete from the forming apparatus.

21. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said closing step comprises filling said inner form with gravel.

22. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said finishing step comprises forming an appropriately placed groove in the concrete to delineate an integrally formed curb portion.

23. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said removing step comprises lifting the hardened concrete away from the gravel and separating the hardened concrete from the inner and outer forms.

24. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 20 further comprising, after said closing step and before said filling step, the step of positioning a reinforcing steel grid within said outer form and over said inner form.

25. (Currently amended) A pre-cast curbside access ramp ~~constructed according to the method of claim 20~~, said pre-cast curbside access ramp having a bottom, said bottom having a recessed area, said pre-cast curbside access ramp being prepared by a method comprising the steps of:

(a) positioning a forming apparatus on a horizontal surface, said forming apparatus comprising an inner form and an outer form, said outer form being shaped to define generally the outer dimensions of a desired pre-cast curbside access ramp having a sloped top, said inner form being positioned within said outer form and being more shallow than said outer form;

(b) closing the top of said inner form to prevent concrete from being poured thereinto;

(c) then, filling said outer form with concrete;

(d) then, finishing the concrete within said outer form to define a sloped top;

(e) then, allowing the finished concrete to harden within the finished form; and

(f) then, removing the hardened concrete from the forming apparatus.

26. (Currently amended) A pre-cast curbside access ramp ~~constructed according to the method of claim 22~~, said pre-cast curbside access ramp having a bottom, said bottom having a recessed area, said pre-cast curbside access ramp being prepared by a method comprising the steps of:

(a) positioning a forming apparatus on a horizontal surface, said forming apparatus comprising an inner form and an outer form, said outer form being shaped to define generally the outer dimensions of a desired pre-cast curbside access ramp having a sloped top, said inner form being positioned within said outer form and being more shallow than said outer form;

(b) closing the top of said inner form to prevent concrete from being poured thereinto;

(c) then, filling said outer form with concrete;

(d) then, finishing the concrete within said outer form, said finishing step comprising defining a sloped top and forming an appropriately placed groove in the concrete to delineate an integrally formed curb portion;

(e) then, allowing the finished concrete to harden within the finished form; and

(f) then, removing the hardened concrete from the forming apparatus.

27. (Currently amended) A pre-cast curbside access ramp ~~constructed according to the method of claim 24,~~ said pre-cast curbside access ramp having a bottom, said bottom having a recessed area, said pre-cast curbside access ramp being prepared by a method comprising the steps of:

(a) positioning a forming apparatus on a horizontal surface, said forming apparatus comprising an inner form and an outer form, said outer form being shaped to define generally the outer dimensions of a desired pre-cast curbside access ramp having a sloped top, said inner form being positioned within said outer form and being more shallow than said outer form;

(b) closing the top of said inner form to prevent concrete from being poured thereinto;

(c) then, positioning a reinforcing steel grid within said outer form and over said inner form;

(d) then, filling said outer form with concrete;

(e) then, finishing the concrete within said outer form to define a sloped top;

(f) then, allowing the finished concrete to harden within the finished form; and

(g) then, removing the hardened concrete from the forming apparatus.

28. (Currently amended) A method of bridging a walkway and a roadway, said walkway and said roadway being situated at different elevations, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) forming a pre-cast curbside access ramp at a first location;

(b) forming a ramp hole at a second location, said second location differing from said first location, said ramp hole being sized to receive the pre-cast curbside access ramp, said ramp hole extending from the rear of the roadway to the front of the walkway and also including a portion of the adjacent walkway at least as long as the pre-cast curbside access ramp;

(c) installing the pre-cast curbside access ramp in the ramp hole; and

(d) then, constructing a platform in the remainder of the ramp hole extending from the installed pre-cast curbside access ramp to the remainder of the walkway.

29. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 28 wherein said pre-cast curbside access ramp ~~is shaped to include an integrally formed curb portion~~ has a top and a bottom, said top having a groove defining an integrally formed curb portion and an integrally formed sloped ramp portion, said bottom having a recessed area.

30. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 29 wherein said pre-cast curbside access ramp comprises steel-reinforced concrete.

Claim 31 (Canceled).

32. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[31]]~~ 29 wherein said recessed area is sized to reduce the weight of said pre-cast curbside access ramp by approximately 500 lbs.

33. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 32 wherein said pre-cast curbside access ramp is a quasi-trapezoidal member shaped to include a top, a bottom, a front, a rear, a front left side, a rear left side, a front right side and a rear right side.

34. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 33 wherein said integrally formed curb portion extends from said front left side to said front right side and includes a central region adapted to lie flush with a roadway and side regions disposed on opposite ends of said central region adapted to slope gradually upwardly from said central region and wherein said ~~pre-cast curbside access~~ integrally formed sloped ramp portion is further shaped to include a central ramp region and a pair of side ramp regions, said central ramp region and said side ramp regions being disposed behind said integrally formed curb portion, said side ramp regions being disposed on opposite sides of said central ramp region and transitioning seamlessly therefrom, said central ramp region sloping from said integrally formed curb portion to said rear with a maximum slope of no greater than 1:12, said side ramp regions sloping from said central ramp region to said rear left side and said rear right side, respectively, with a maximum slope of no greater than 1:10.

35. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 34 wherein each of said front, said rear, said rear left side and said rear right side is provided with a longitudinally extending key-way.

36. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 35 wherein said bottom is further provided with one or more slots adapted to receive a strap for use in lifting the pre-cast curbside access ramp.

37. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 28 wherein said pre-cast curbside access ramp is a quasi-triangular member shaped to include a top, a bottom, a straight side, and an arcuate side, one end of said arcuate side being joined to one end of said straight side, the other end of said arcuate side being joined to the opposite end of said straight side, said top being shaped to include a generally triangularly shaped post located along the midpoint of said arcuate side, said top also being shaped to include a flat area surrounding said post and a sloped area extending from said flat area to said straight side.

38. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 28 wherein said platform is made of asphalt.

39. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 28 wherein said platform is made of concrete.

40. (Currently amended) A method of bridging a walkway and a roadway, said walkway and said roadway being situated at different elevations, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) forming a pre-cast curbside access ramp at a first location;

(b) forming a ramp hole at a second location different from said first location, said ramp hole being sized to receive the pre-cast curbside access ramp;

(c) installing the pre-cast curbside access ramp in the ramp hole; and

(d) then, constructing a platform in the remainder of the ramp hole extending from the installed pre-cast curbside access ramp to the walkway.